GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1314
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
IIT`S, NIT`S AND REC`S
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of comparative standards of education provided by Indian Institute of Technologies, National Institutes of Technology and the Regional Engineering Colleges;

(b) the policy of the Government in regard to establishment of the Regional Engineering Colleges;

(c) whether the Policy has any link with the population of the State concerned;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of applications received from various States for establishment of RECs during the last three years, State- wise;

(f) the number of applications cleared so far; and

(g) the time by which remaining proposals are likely to be cleared?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (g) - A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1314 FOR 26.11.2002 ASKED BY SHRI V. VETRISELVAN AND SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI REGARDING IIT's, NIT`s AND REC`s.

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs)/Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) provide technical education of high standards. Since its inception, IITs have been totally autonomous in nature with adequate freedom for experimentation and innovation. These Institutes are fully supported by the Central Government with liberal funding. Over a period of time, Infrastructural facilities and technical manpower produced by IITs have been able to match the global standard. Besides, these Institutes also have very active association with the industry.

On the other hand, RECs have also established a name and reputation for themselves in the field of technical education next only to IITs. But they have not been able to attain the level of IITs because of structural deficiencies like their affiliation to State Universities, uncertain and uneven flow of fund from the State Governments and dual control of the internal governance set-up. Further, RECs have been mainly catering to teaching programmes at the Undergraduate level and have limited focus on postgraduate education and research.

Based on the recommendations of the High Powered Review Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to review the functioning of RECs and that of the Empowered Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Union Education Secretary in 1999, the Central Government has decided to convert the RECs into NITs to raise their overall standards by granting them "Deemed to be University" status having structural changes in governance, academic programmes, financial management, funding support etc. Out of seventeen RECs in the country, thirteen have already been converted into NITs.

RECs have been established in major States of the country as joint & co-operative venture of the Central Government and the State Government concerned with a view to creating institutional facilities for providing under graduate education and training in different branches of engineering and thereby providing the engineering manpower needed for industrial projects and development envisaged under the successive five year plan. Besides, these institutions also promote national integration by admitting students from all over India to the extent of 50% of its annual intake capacity, while reserving the balance 50% of the seats for students from the States in which the RECs are located.

At present, there is no policy as such to open RECs in each State. During the last three years two requests have been received for upgradation of Goa Engineering College, Goa and Bihar Engineering College, Patna to the level of RECs. The Ministry has not taken any decision in this regard so far.